

transportation investments. With sequestration, we will lose both construction jobs and potential new investments in our business parks.

In Itasca, veterans who would sacrifice everything for our Nation wonder why Congress can't come together and stop the cuts that will hurt this country they love so much. They didn't go home until they got their mission accomplished, and we shouldn't go home until we revolve this self-inflicted crisis.

Both parties agreed to the sequester. The time for finger-pointing and assigning blame is over. We should immediately vote on and pass commonsense measures like stopping Medicare fraud, ending subsidies for oil and gas industries, and ending tax loopholes for large corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up House Resolution 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenues, a measure that would save thousands of jobs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. BARBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, we are now less than 48 hours from sweeping and irresponsible, across-the-board budget cuts that will go into effect on Friday. These cuts will weaken our military, harm our border security, undermine economic recovery, and hurt southern Arizona families.

We must work together. We can, I am confident, craft a rational, bipartisan solution to reduce the debt so these cuts can be avoided.

Last week I stood with officials from the University of Arizona, the city of Tucson, law enforcement, Border Patrol agents, civilian employees of the airbase and the garrison at Fort Huachuca, and local health care groups and community agencies to demand that we take action on sequestration.

The critical services that these groups and individuals and countless others provide to Arizonans will be cut because Congress has not come together with a commonsense solution. In my districts, these cuts mean longer wait times at the border and ports of entry, and less security between them. This is absolutely unacceptable.

Sequestration hurts the ability of returning veterans to find a job. This is also unacceptable.

And as I've said before, I'm willing to work here with all of my colleagues to find a middle ground. We owe our communities a budget, one that balances new revenues, eliminates ineffective programs and allows vital services to continue.

We should not recess tomorrow. We should stay here and do our job.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. WOODALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, as a freshman here on the House floor just 2 years ago, it does my heart good to see my freshman colleagues coming down from the other side of the aisle, because I came down with that same vision 2 years ago to work together to address the big issues that are out there.

I serve on the Budget Committee, Mr. Speaker, and for fiscal year 2013, we're going to post a \$1 trillion annual deficit. This sequester that every Member is rightly concerned about is \$85 billion, less than one-tenth the magnitude of the decisions we really need to make to get America back on fiscal track.

Is the sequester anybody's idea of the right way to do it? I don't believe that it is.

Is everyone's idea of the right way to do it to deal with that part of the budget that we don't do in discretionary spending? The big two-thirds, that mandatory spending that we have to come together on to deal with? And the answer is absolutely, yes.

I stand ready to work with my freshman colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do those big things that need to be done. But Mr. Speaker, we have raised taxes already in 2013. The CBO reports that an additional \$1 trillion will come into the Treasury over the next 10 years.

What we need is not more taxes. What we need are responsible spending cuts, Mr. Speaker.

SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. The House majority should bring legislation to this floor that will prevent the automatic, across-the-board cuts that will occur on Friday. These dangerous, indiscriminate cuts threaten our economy and vital services for our children, for women, for seniors, small businessmen, and our servicemembers in uniform.

Today, we are spending \$12 billion less on labor, health, and education programs than we were in 2002. And because of the cuts we made in the Budget Control Act, we will be spending \$21 billion less on these programs in 2022. And yet, despite these already made cuts the sequester will gut labor, health, and education programs by nearly another \$7 billion this year.

The results? Over 10,000 fewer people in my State will get the assistance they need to find jobs. Over 1,500 fewer Connecticut children will see vaccines for diseases. And 8,000 disadvantaged students will lose access to educational services. This will also relieve teachers and teacher aides of their jobs, thereby raising unemployment.

This is in addition to cuts that will impact food safety inspection, Meals on Wheels for seniors, support for public safety officers, and to keep air traffic controllers on the job.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up my colleague Mr. VAN HOLLEN's Stop the Sequester Job Loss Now Act. It replaces sequestration with a balanced, bipartisan approach to deficit reduction.

We have a responsibility in this body: pass a budget that protects the middle class, our seniors, and the most vulnerable—and we have to act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

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HOUSE VOTED TWICE TO REPEAL THE SEQUESTER

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. What I want to remind the people of is that this House has twice passed legislation to repeal the sequester. The Senate has not done anything. Quite honestly, they have just chosen not to do their job over there.

The President has yet to give us a written proposal. But this House, the people's House, twice voted to repeal the sequester with responsible spending cuts.

THE SEQUESTER

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Time is short, Mr. Speaker. March 1 is just a few hours away, and the Republicans refuse to bring forward a balanced plan to replace the meat-ax approach to governing known as sequestration.

My constituents have been clear with me: We should stop the blame game, and we must stop this sequester from happening. New Mexicans are worried. They know what happens if we don't stop the sequester:

More than 750,000 jobs are at risk just this year.

Almost 10,000 New Mexicans won't be able to get the help and skills they need to find a job.

Small businesses, the backbone of our economy, won't be able to get the loans that they need to expand and grow.

Just in New Mexico, almost 7,000 civilian furloughs from the Defense Department, resulting in \$42 million less in gross pay for those employees, forcing middle class families to deal with losses equal to one mortgage payment or more.

Lastly, one of my State's and district's largest employers, Sandia National Laboratories, has implemented a